

many of my constituents and so many others, a heartfelt tribute to Rabbi Irwin Groner. Forty plus seventy has the sound of biblical numbers; Rabbi Groner has surely lived up to, indeed exceeded, his biblical calling.

#### TRIBUTE TO MILLIE BENSON

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2002*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in sad acknowledgment of the passing from this life of a national heroine and true Toledo treasure. Millie Benson, author of the original Nancy Drew series of books and lifelong adventurer, passed away on Tuesday, May 28, 2002 the age of 96 years. She had spent the day at her desk at The Blade newspaper completing her regular column. That last column, published on May 29, 2002, discussed the history and importance of the public library system. It is a fitting end to the storied career of a woman who inspired a lifelong passion for reading, as she herself had, in generations of youngsters.

Millie Benson was born in the town of Ladora, Iowa to Dr. J.L. and Lillian Augustine on July 10, 1905. In addition to being a voracious reader, she also excelled at athletics. She pursued both while a student at the University of Iowa, where she was a champion diver, a reporter for the local newspaper, and a published author. Her first story was published in 1919 in The Nicholas Magazine of New York. It was when completing her Master's Degree that she began her famous book series, and under a pen name wrote the first 23 books of the Nancy Drew mysteries. Paid little and required to sign away the rights, Mildred Benson remained in obscurity as the books' author until a legal battle in 1983 revealed her identity.

In the meantime, Mildred Benson, who had married Asa Wirt in 1928, kept busy with many other pursuits including the writing of several other series for children and novels, obtaining both commercial and instrument rated private pilot licenses (in her sixties!), and traveling into such remote outposts as the jungles of Mexico and South America and archeological sites in Central America, where she pursued her hobby exploring Mayan civilization. After Mr. Wirt's passing, in 1950 she married George Benson. Mr. Benson was editor of the Toledo Times newspaper. Thus began her revived career as a reporter. When the Toledo Times ceased publication in 1959, she began working for The Blade.

The 1990s brought her renewed acclaim as the author of the Nancy Drew series. Although in her eighties and nineties, she was a guest of many national and worldwide conferences, publications, and televised broadcasts. In 1993, she was the feature of the University of Iowa's Nancy Drew conference. Recognized by her alma mater not only for her journalism, she was also remembered as the first woman to receive a master's degree in journalism from that institution, an accomplishment she achieved in 1927. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame and received her alma mater's highest alumni award. Other recognitions included lifetime achievement awards from the Ohio Newspaper Women

(1997) and The Blade (1999), an honorary Doctor of Letters Degree from Adrian College in Michigan (1999), and the Ohio Library Association's recognition of her "distinguished and creative contributions to children's literature" (1989). Even while living this full and creative life, Millie Benson never forgot her fans. She answered every single letter, honored each request for an autograph, and always had time to talk to her fans.

Everyday of Mildred Benson's life was spent living to life's absolute fullest. Her example inspired those around her. Her unflagging enthusiasm for her chosen profession was infectious and her zest for life unsurpassed. Perhaps Blade publisher John R. Block summarized her best, saying "Millie Benson was one of the greatest women writers and journalists of the 20th century. She was gutsy and daring, a living embodiment of her Nancy Drew heroine." Our deepest condolences go now to her daughter Peggy. Yet Mildred Benson's lasting legacy remains through her books and the millions of lives her writing and her life have influenced.

In a 1973 issue of Books At Iowa describing her career, Millie Benson wrote of writing for the ages and not just a place in time, but her essay "The Ghost of Ladora" is actually the finest tribute to her life's passage, "So now it is time for the final chapter, seemingly one destined from the beginning. A fadeout becomes the most difficult of all, for the story is finished, the reader led to believe that the very best lies directly ahead. New worlds to conquer! New horizons to explore! . . . and all the pilots of fantasy suddenly take shape before our eyes, their wagging wings flashing the personal message: 'Come fly with me.' Such challenge cannot be denied. Work forgotten, we hasten to the nearby airport where a small plane awaits its all-too-willing passenger. Eagerly we take off, climbing high above the smog, the petty perplexities of life. The sky is blue. The wind blows free, Here at last, far above the earth, age and youth imperceptibly blend, and stem reality dissolves into the ultimate Magnificent Dream."

#### HONORING PROFESSOR YAN XIN

### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2002*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions and achievements of Professor Yan Xin on the twelfth anniversary of the professor's introduction of the "Yan Xin Life Science Technology" to the American public. Working as a physician, a professor and a scientist, Professor Yan Xin has had an integral role in major breakthroughs in experimental research, which have led to new methods of preventing disease and promoting the health of humankind.

Professor Yan Xin has long been recognized as a leader in the fight against cancer, AIDS, and diseases associated with the aging process. He has been certified as a chief physician by the Ministry of Health in China and has conducted collaborative research with several world-renowned research institutes and universities. Professor Yan Xin has been a blessing to both his colleagues and those who have benefited from his healing, so much

so that Presidents George H.W. Bush, William J. Clinton and George W. Bush have all met with him personally and praised his work.

The key to Professor Yan Xin's success is his ability to combine modern scientific procedures with traditional healing and fitness methods. Yan Xin Life Science Technology utilizes elements of traditional Chinese culture such as acupuncture and medicines derived from natural products, then incorporates Western health treatments and the research of Professor Yan Xin and his peers in the modern scientific community. This blend of intuitive and empirical thinking serves as an example for all of those who are working improve the lives of others.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Professor Yan Xin both personally and on behalf of all those whose lives have been improved as a result of his work. Professor Yan Xin's career is far from over, and we can all look forward to continuing successes in his many areas of expertise.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. BENJAMIN REED

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 18, 2002*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this month brings us the retirement of Dr. Benjamin Reed, long time county coroner in Fulton County, Ohio. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Reed, who ended his service April 1, 2002 after nearly four decades.

A physician in the finest sense of the word and true public servant, Dr. Reed is known by everyone in Fulton County and is doctor to all in his hometown of Delta and to so many more in Northwest Ohio. A friend and confidante to all who knew him, his energetic attitude and dedication to his profession are unsurpassed.

The practice of medicine runs deep in Dr. Reed's family. He followed in his grandfather's footsteps, obtaining his medical degree from the University of Louisville. He began his practice in Kentucky, then moved to West Virginia where he doctored to the people of a coal mining town. There he learned to put his skills to the test as he practiced everything from obstetrics to cardiology to surgery. It was soon after moving to Delta that he began working in the coroners office, to which he was elected after seven years. In 1994, his neighbors recognized him as Delta's Citizen of the Year.

In addition to his practice and his coroner's work, Dr. Reed held offices with the Ohio State Medical Association, the Fulton County Medical Society, and the American Heart Association's Northwest Ohio Chapter. As he ends his public life, may Dr. Reed enjoy the serenity of family life and the peace which comes from a job well done. We wish him a very enjoyable retirement as he spends time on his own schedule and preferred activities, and with the family and friends dear to him. Thank you Dr. Reed, for your exemplary service to us all!